



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

APR 07 2003

Dear Mr. Markey:

This is in response to your letter of March 5 outlining your concerns about a perceived shift in U.S. nonproliferation policy. Preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) remains a top national security priority for this Administration. We are determined to do what it takes to push back efforts by countries to acquire these dangerous capabilities.

With regard to North Korea, our goal remains the visible, verifiable, and irreversible termination of North Korea's nuclear weapons program. Some false press reports to the contrary, this Administration has not accepted North Korean possession of nuclear weapons. North Korea's nuclear weapons program is a serious violation of North Korea's commitments under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), its International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards agreement, and the Joint North-South Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

The Administration has made clear that North Korea's actions present a threat to regional security and a challenge to the global nuclear nonproliferation regime. However, we have also made clear that we still believe a diplomatic solution is possible and we are working steadfastly toward that end. Our efforts include quiet diplomacy with our friends and allies focused on a multilateral approach. Our efforts also involve consultations at the United Nations Security Council, including consultations among the permanent five (P-5) council members on measures that might be pursued at the UNSC. Such consultations have been underway since the International Atomic Energy Agency reported further DPRK noncompliance to the UNSC on February 12.

The Honorable
Edward J. Markey,
House of Representatives.

At the same time, this Administration is mindful that North Korea may choose not to take part in diplomatic efforts to address its nuclear program and will further isolate itself from the international community. We are concerned that North Korea may take further escalatory steps beyond those it has already promulgated. And, mindful of North Korea's record as a missile proliferator, we are concerned about the possibility, noted by Deputy Secretary Armitage in his February testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in February, that North Korea may decide to sell nuclear-related technologies or fissile materials to other rogue states.

With regard to our support for the Korean Economic Development Organization (KEDO), the Republic of Korea (ROK) and Japan provide the funding for construction of the light water reactor (LWR) project. The U.S. has contributed \$401 million to KEDO since 1995 for delivery of heavy fuel oil and administrative expenses. No U.S. funds have contributed to the construction of the LWRs. Work on the LWR project is ongoing, pending a decision by KEDO's Executive Board members about the project's future. Board decisions are customarily made by consensus. However, the U.S. continues to make clear to our KEDO partners the lack of support in the United States for the LWR project, even if North Korea adheres to its international obligations.

We are doing everything we can to find a diplomatic solution to the challenge North Korea poses. However, as the President has made clear, all options remain on the table. As the Administration pursues its efforts to resolve the situation, it will of course continue to consult with the Congress.

We hope this information is helpful. Please let us know if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Paul V. Kelly". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Paul" and last name "Kelly" being the most prominent parts.

Paul V. Kelly
Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs